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WELCOME TO THE
JUNE 2007
ROCKY MOUNTAIN ACCESS
ENEWSLETTER!

Presented by the Rocky Mountain Disability and Business Technical Assistance Center / ADA Center. The **Rocky Mountain Access** is a free monthly online newsletter with current accessibility information for the Rocky Mountain region that includes Wyoming, Utah, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Colorado.

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Roundtable

In the Rocky Mountain Region

* [Living Independently for Today and Tomorrow Inc.](#) invites the public to the [third annual birthday party](#) for the signing of the Americans with Disabilities Act...

* [The U.S. Access Board](#) Proudly invites you to the "Americans with Disabilities Act: In Celebration," a meeting being held in Denver, Colorado on July 24, 2007...

* Denver - [The Volunteers of America](#) Handyman Program will distribute free fans, smoke detectors and educational materials on fall prevention and fire safety to senior citizens . These items will be distributed in Denver, Jefferson, Arapahoe and Adams Counties. Volunteers are needed to help with the delivery of the fans and smoke detectors. Interested seniors (60 or older) should call 303.297.0408 and ask for the Handyman program. These gifts are made possible though the generous support of the law firm of Brownstein, Hyatt, Farber and Schreck and LEAP, the Low Income Energy Assistance Program as well as the Wal-Mart stores in the metro area. Everything will be distributed on Friday June 8, 2007 and volunteers can come to the Volunteers of America building at 2660 Larimer, Denver, CO. 80205 anytime between 10:00 a.m. and noon to pick up the fans and a list of addresses and directions...

* [The Road to Freedom Tour](#) continues to travel across America. Plans to stop in the Rocky Mountain region include:

Salt Lake City , Utah - May 30 – June 1

Grand Junction, Colorado - June 3 – 6

Denver, Colorado - TBD

Cheyenne , Wyoming - June 14 – 16

Missoula , Montana - June 27 – 29

Helena, Montana - TBD

Bismarck , North Dakota - July 1 – 2

Mount Rushmore - July 4, *Independence Day*

Sioux Falls , South Dakota - July 6 – 7

* disABILITY MATTERS Summit 2007 - Our Mission is to move the current paradigm in Colorado Springs and the region to one of cooperativeness; client's needs first, and inclusiveness of the disabled in the workforce. We shall work to set precedence for other communities to follow by providing awareness, advocacy, alignment, and support.

Phase I - Agency Summit - Wed. June 6 th, 8am to 12noon. No Cost to Attend.

Purpose: To align all non profit and government agencies in CS to work together for the benefit of their clients with regards to gainful and appropriate employment, To identify current challenges with employment opportunities and determine

solutions, To formulate a cohesive structure to agency to agency referral, and To encourage an ongoing dialog between agencies. For information, contact Pamela Weir at Weir Capital Connections, 719-219-3598 or cashnow_1@juno.com...

* Cross-Disability Coalition is looking for people who have had problems getting interpreters from the Aurora Police Department in the last 2 years (May 2005 - now). If you have a complaint, please contact Carrie Ann Lucas, Center for Rights of Parents with Disabilities Colorado Cross-Disability Coalition, Denver at clucas@ccdconline.org; or 303.839.1775 – voice; 303.839.0015 (TTY and CapTel); 800.817.1435 (voice); 877.267.1621(TTY and CapTel)...

Latest and Greatest

* Scheduled to launch in September 2007, Disaboom.com will be the first online resource to offer comprehensive medical information and education, classifieds, social networking and commerce together in one area targeted to meet the needs of hundreds of millions of people currently living with a disability or functional limitation as well as family members, friends, caregivers, recreation and rehabilitation providers and employers...

* [New DVD: Accommodating Employees with Disabilities](#) – As an employer you already know that people are your most important business asset. Whether seeking new employees, or trying to keep a valued long-time employee, simple accommodations are often the best way to fully tap your “people” resources. This program shows common examples of how to recognize and respond to requests for job accommodations in familiar job settings...

* [Data set: American Community Survey](#) - Data show that people with disabilities are consistently less likely to be working than their non-disabled counterparts. In this data note, we compare the employment rate for working-age people with and without disabilities...

* [Workers with Disabilities: Talent for a Winning Team!](#) is the 2007 National Disability Employment Awareness Month theme...

* National Telecommuting Institute, Inc. – [Work-at-Home Online Jobs](#) for Americans with Disabilities...

* [Workplace Technologies for People with Disabilities](#) - This new employment-focused guide provides information on how employers and service providers can utilize assistive technology to make workplaces and service centers accessible to people with disabilities. The guide contains illustrations of many different types of assistive technologies including descriptive text on the use of these technologies...

* [Simplifying the Accessibility \(Disability\) Myth](#) - We all may become disabled, so think more about how to regulate our built environment and our programs. [From the National Fire Protection Association...](#)

* Through the years a new way of [camping has evolved](#) for children with special needs and their families, a way that emphasizes a child's abilities over his or her disabilities, a way that not only accommodates assistive technology but is dependent on it, along with other factors, to ensure a summer of rich experience. This issue of Family Center on Technology and Disability examines the evolution of summer camp for children with disabilities, the level of training achieved by contemporary camp counselors and staff and the role of assistive technology in the camp experience...

* [The DiversityInc Top 10 Companies for People With Disabilities](#) ...

* The American Foundation for the Blind (AFB) is pleased to present the latest issue of AFB eNews (<http://www.afb.org/enews.asp>), a monthly online publication that keeps you up to date on AFB's activities...

* Announcing [Three Exciting Opportunities](#) to Learn More About Assistive Technology and Funding...

Law and Order

* The National Association of the Deaf (NAD) [filed a complaint](#) with the United States Department of Justice (DOJ) against a law firm alleging that they refused to accept telephone calls made through a Telecommunications Relay Service by an individual who is deaf...

* [EEOC Issues New Guidance on Family Responsibilities Discrimination](#) The U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) has published a new guidance on how agency-enforced laws apply to workers with care-giving responsibilities. The agency says it is issuing the guidance as a proactive measure to address an emerging discrimination issue in the workplace...

* Hotels.com, one of the world's largest online travel agencies, is discriminating against people with disabilities by [refusing to guarantee reservations for wheelchair-accessible rooms](#), according to a California class action lawsuit filed today. The lawsuit is one of the first of its kind in the country. Because of the substantial size of the California market, the case has national implications...

* Hotel Lawyer: [How hotel swimming pools may spawn ADA lawsuits and what to do about it...](#)

* EEOC Disability Page: <http://www.eeoc.gov/types/ada.html>...

Vital Information

* 2006 StatsRRTC State-of-the-Science Conference - [The Future of Disability Statistics](#): What We Know and Need to Know...

* [Resources for Test Takers with Disabilities](#)...

* [Tool Kit For State and Local Governments \(new chapters 05/07/07\)](#): "On December 5, 2006, February 27, 2007, and May 7, 2007, the Civil Rights Division of the U.S. Department of Justice issued installments of a new technical assistance document designed to assist state and local officials to improve compliance with Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) in their programs, services, activities, and facilities..."

* Now Available Online: [Design for Accessibility: A Cultural Administrator's Handbook](#)...

* [DisabilityInfo.gov](#) is the federal government's one-stop Web site for people with disabilities, their families, employers, veterans, workforce professionals and many others...

* [Breaking the Silence on Crime Victims with Disabilities](#) - Addressing the long-neglected needs of crime victims with disabilities is the focus of a new partnership announced today by the National Council on Disability, the Association of University Centers on Disabilities, and the National Center for Victims of Crime. The ultimate goal of this partnership is to foster greater public awareness about crime victims with disabilities and to forge a national commitment to better serve this particularly vulnerable population...

* [HANDS & VOICES](#) is a parent driven, non-profit organization dedicated to providing unbiased support to families with children who are deaf or hard of hearing. This organization provides support activities and information concerning deaf and hard of hearing issues to parents and professionals that may include outreach events, educational seminars, advocacy, lobbying efforts, parent to parent networking, and a newsletter. H&V strives to connect families with resources and information to make informed decisions around the issues of deafness or hearing loss...

* [SELF EMPLOYMENT: New Website for Entrepreneurs w. Disabilities](#) - Self-Employment Technical Assistance, Resources, & Training (START-UP / USA) is a partnership between Virginia Commonwealth University and Griffin-Hammis and Associates, LLC. A primary focus of the project will be to provide technical assistance and disseminate resources nationally to individuals interested in pursuing self-employment. This includes a live web cast series during year one of the project with successful entrepreneurs who will share their secrets for

success...

Training Day

* [June 19, 2007 - Performance vs Disability: What is the difference?](#) As the workforce ages, employers will experience more and more issues associated with employees who experience difficulty doing their job. One of the major questions facing employers is whether or not the performance issues experienced by their employees are due to a disability which may require reasonable accommodation. Join our speaker, Sharon Rennert, as she addresses the issue of performance versus disability and the steps that an employer should take to ensure that they do not discriminate against qualified individuals with disabilities while ensuring that they have a productive workforce. [Audio Conference Schedule for 2006-2007...](#)

* [Know Your ADA Rights!](#) This ***NEW*** session geared toward individuals with disabilities and disability service providers will offer basic information about rights and responsibilities under the ADA. Attendees will learn strategies and resources for effective ADA self-advocacy. Join us Wednesday, June 27, 2007 from 10:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m., with lunch included. The training will be at the ADA Center facility in Colorado Springs at 3630 Sinton Road, Suite 103. Cost: \$10 (includes lunch and handouts). Seating is limited, so please reserve your place by e-mail at training@mtc-inc.com, or call 800-949-4232 (V, TTY) and ask for Jana. If auxiliary aids or alternate formats are needed, please let Jana know in advance of the training...

* [Welcome to the One-Stop toolkit website](#) , a technical assistance product developed by DTI Associates, Inc. on behalf of Work Incentive and Disability Program Navigator Grantees. This website provides accessible and comprehensive tools and information to grantees who provide services that help individuals with disabilities find and keep good jobs...

* [National Business Services Alliance](#) (NBSA) offers two Disability Courses for Employers to help employers understand all they need to recruit, hire and retain people with disabilities. The courses - one for Executives and another for Managers - dissolve myths about workers with disabilities, reducing fears about hiring, training and dismissal, and also provide practical advice on procedures such as developing company-wide disabilities standards...

* [Online Professional Development Courses](#) and Certificate Programs in Disability, Workplace & Employment Support Practice...

* [A comprehensive accessibility](#) management program is the key to success for park and recreation agencies. This NCA training course is designed to give Accessibility Coordinators in parks and recreation the foundation for

implementing an accessibility management program. This course is ideal for professionals with newly appointed responsibilities and for those looking to brush up on the latest information for accessibility compliance...

Accessibility Tools

* * *

Check out the new products and resources available at www.adainformation.org. Several of the posters have space for you to add your own contact information. In particular, we have set aside a box at the lower left on the "Disability Etiquette Tips" poster for you to do this. All products have quantity discounts available !

* * *

* [New DVD: Accommodating Employees with Disabilities](#) – As an employer you already know that people are your most important business asset. Whether seeking new employees, or trying to keep a valued long-time employee, simple accommodations are often the best way to fully tap your "people" resources. This program shows common examples of how to recognize and respond to requests for job accommodations in familiar job settings...

* [ADA Existing Facility Checklist CD-Rom](#) - A practical, how-to training tool to help you comply with the physical barrier removal requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act. Allows the user to visually grasp, in checklist form, how to make access improvements to existing facilities...

* [The ADA Quiz Book](#) 3rd Edition is a great resource for increasing your knowledge of the ADA. Produced by the Rocky Mountain ADA & IT Center, this updated collection of puzzles, questions, and scenarios about the ADA, disability etiquette, and electronic and information technology is designed to be a fun, informative introduction to the law...

* ["Sign Language Basics"](#) is a sign language poster illustrating over 20 basic signs, the alphabet, and numbers 1-10, developed by the Rocky Mountain ADA Center...

* [The "Vital Signs" poster](#) displays 24 signs related to health and medicine, perfect for a doctor's office or an emergency room*, or for supplementing your sign language vocabulary. * *While this poster is helpful in aiding communication, it is not a substitute for providing effective communication as required by the ADA. For more information on your rights or responsibilities, give us a call at 800-949-4232 (V, TTY)...*

* ["Service Animals Welcome"](#) is an informational poster on the use of service

animals in public facilities. The two-sided poster comes in your choice of two sizes (9 ½ x 16" and 12"x 20") and is appropriate for posting in any public place...

* [Disability Awareness Poster Series and Pocket Guides](#)— a complete listing of awareness posters available from the Rocky Mountain ADA Center...

Coming Soon

* [July 17, 2007 - ADA Update: 17 Years Later](#)

Back by popular demand, representatives of the federal agencies will provide an update of their enforcement activities during the past 12 months. Join the Great Lakes DBTAC monthly audio conference as we mark the 17 th Anniversary of the ADA and celebrate the on-going efforts of the federal agencies to enforce the rights of individuals with disabilities...

* [ADA Info for Terps](#)...Join us on July 25 th for this ***NEW*** session geared toward sign language interpreting professionals. We will discuss the general requirements of the ADA, undue hardship/burden, the RID code of ethics and how it relates to the ADA, primary consideration, and certified vs. non-certified interpreters. The training will also focus on the rights and responsibilities of your Deaf and hearing clients. The training will be at the ADA Center facility in Colorado Springs at 3630 Sinton Road, Suite 103. Cost: \$10 (includes lunch and handouts). Seating is limited, so please reserve your place by e-mail at training@mtc-inc.com, or call 800-949-4232 (V, TTY) and ask for Jana. If auxiliary aids or alternate formats are needed, please let Jana know in advance of the training...

* [JUNE 12, 2007](#) - "Workplace Accommodations: A Small Investment Yields Large Return" Webcast, 2:00 - 3:00 PM ET Sponsored by JAN...

* [The National Center for Victims of Crime](#) will hold its second National Conference, "Advancing Practice, Policy, and Research," June 18-20, 2007, in Washington, DC. Our conference will feature more than 130 leading experts and 80 skill-building workshops on a wide range of issues that matter to you, including a track of workshops on enhancing services for crime victims with disabilities...

* [JULY 10, 2007](#) "The ADA at 17: What's Happening with Title I?" Webcast, 2:00 - 3:00 PM ET Sponsored by JAN...

* [September 28, 2007 - Annual "ADA Update](#) - BWI Airport Marriott Baltimore , Maryland, hosted by the DBTAC: Mid-Atlantic ADA Center. Stay current with government and regional practices and policies, hone your skills, and expand your network. Attend our annual ADA Update and hear from Federal agencies in

the morning, then participate in the afternoon break-out session of your choice: DOJ's NEW Title II Tool Kit; Reasonable Accommodation; and Customer Service. Contact Marissa Johnson by e-mail mjohnson@transcen.org for more information...

* [Workers with Disabilities: Talent for a Winning Team!](#) is the 2007 National Disability Employment Awareness Month theme...

The Internet Café

* [Mr. Wheelchair America?](#) Mr. Wheelchair America Program is a competition to select the most accomplished spokesperson for other persons with disabilities in the United States. This program is an opportunity to see the potential within and to challenge personal growth. You can be a part of this wonderful competition!

* AOL has introduced a new [AOL Ability blog](#) site and forum dedicated to people with disabilities, and their families, friends and colleagues. Designed to provide focused content for people with disabilities and to heighten disability awareness with mainstream audiences, the AOL Ability blog will have relevant news, stories and information in the key areas of employment, entertainment, family, health and technology...

Roundtable

* [You are invited to participate in a research study](#) designed to provide information regarding the major components and settings in a high school curriculum that lead to employment for individuals with autism. The study is being conducted by Dr. Tom Simmons and Judith S. Marco and is sponsored by the University of Louisville, Department of Teaching and Learning. The study is available via the internet or as a hard copy. It should take approximately 10 minutes to complete the survey...

* The purpose of this nationwide survey from [CSD](#) focuses on deaf, deafblind and hard of hearing individuals who use sign language and interpreting services. This survey is part of the community needs assessment for the Deaf Advocacy Training Project. The information gathered from this survey will help develop a self advocacy training tool for consumers who use sign language and interpreting services. [The survey is available in both text and in American Sign Language \(ASL\)](#)...

* Take an online survey that could help influence the design and development of more accessible and usable wireless phones and services. It is sponsored by the Rehabilitation Engineering Research Center for Wireless Technology, "Wireless RERC", at Georgia Tech University. This 10-minute online accessible survey is on the Internet at http://www.wirelessrerc.gatech.edu/survey/coverletter_p2.html

It's also available as hard copy or can be completed over the phone by contacting

Lynne Broderick, 2020 Peachtree Road, NW, Atlanta, GA 30309

Voice: (404) 367-1348; Toll-free: (800) 582-6360

Email: wirelessrerc@shepherd.org or lynne_broderick@shepherd.org

* [Recent court rulings](#) have brought the subject of the independent identification of paper currency by people who are visually impaired into the public spotlight. AccessWorld would like to gather information directly from those who are affected by this issue. Responses will be anonymous...

* [Participants Needed for Research Studies](#) - The WorkRERC at CATEA is recruiting older employees with disabilities to participate in paid focus groups about the types of technology and accommodations needed to perform work and employment-related activities. The WorkRERC at CATEA is also recruiting CCN members with cognitive impairments who are currently employed or seeking employment to participate in paid online focus groups...

ROCKY MOUNTAIN ACCESS JUNE 2007

This electronic newsletter is supported by a grant from the U.S. Department of Education (DOE), National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research (NIDRR), Grant Number H133A060079. The information provided in this publication is intended solely as informational guidance, and is neither a determination of your legal rights or responsibilities, nor binding on any agency with enforcement responsibility. The Rocky Mountain Disability and Business Technical Assistance Center is not responsible for other web sites that are referred to in the enewsletter.

Please Note: Some of the links provided are time sensitive and may be available for a limited period. All links are active at the time this enewsletter is mailed.

ABOUT THE DBTAC / ADA CENTER

The Rocky Mountain Disability and Business Technical Assistance Center (DBTAC) operates under grant #H133A060079 from the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research (NIDRR) to provide basic information about the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), as well as respond to more complex requests for technical assistance and training.

DBTAC: Rocky Mountain ADA Center / MTC Staff:

Robert H. Gattis - Senior Advisor
Randy Dipner - Senior Advisor
Patrick Going - Project Director
Geoff Ames - Information Specialist
Andrea Archer - Information Specialist
Jana Copeland – Director of Research and Training
Rob Gilkerson - Information Specialist
Cristi Harris – Leadership Network Coordinator
Michael McFadden - Network Administrator
Candice Brandt – Information Specialist, Sign Language Interpreter
Maggie Sims – Editor, Information Specialist

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SUBSCRIBE TO THE FREE PRINT NEWSLETTER:

The Rocky Mountain ADA Center also produces a hard-copy newsletter. The print newsletter provides relevant, in-depth information on the ADA, Accessible information Technology, and other disability related issues, with info not included in the enewsletter. The newsletter is available in Braille, large print, and on computer disk, and is free of charge (for subscribers in Colorado, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah, and Wyoming). See the latest edition of the newsletter and subscribe at www.adainformation.org, or subscribe by phone at 800-949-4232 (V, TTY).

DBTAC:
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